Jan: 13th 1829

5th South 7th

Dr C.

No 53

An Essay
on the

Acute stage of Hepatitis.

Submitted to the medical Faculty

of the
University of Pennsylvania

For the degree of Doctor of medicine
by,

Passed March 6. 1829

William H: Sheild
of
Virginia.

March 1829.

The attention paid of late years to morbid anatomy, has shed much light on many branches of our science — and improvement in any one of them, is not more manifest than that which has been effected in Pathology. This observation applies with peculiar force to the disease which I have selected as the subject of my inaugural Thesis. This has engaged the attention of many learned and experienced men who have written so fully and ably on it, as to leave me but a slender opportunity of suggesting any thing new or interesting in regard either to its causes or treatment. But as it is one of frequent occurrence in many parts of our Country, I have been induced chiefly by this circumstance to direct my attention to it. Acting therefore on this principle, it will be perceived in the following communication that it has been my endeavour, "to collect to arrange and communicate in plain clear language" those facts and observations which are to be found in the writings of some of the best Authors on this subject —

Hepatitis or inflammation of the Liver has by the generality of Writers been divided into two species – the one acute, the other chronic. The former (which is the subject of my Essay) commences with the ordinary phenomena of pyrexia, chillings, succeeded by heat, and finally fever.
Conjoined with this, there is pain in the right hypochondriac region, which is sometimes shooting, at other times more constant, and often acute, or obtuse and deep-seated. The pain is not confined to the region of the Liver, but extends to the clavicle and shoulder, particularly of the right side.

This last symptom according to Dr. Good, "is to be accounted for by recollecting that the radiations of the phrenic nerve extend in an upper line, to the shoulder, and in a lower, to the diaphragm which constitute its extreme points."
That principle of sympathy which induces remote parts, and particularly remote extremities to associate in the same morbid action, is peculiarly conspicuous in a con=

=tinued chain of nervous fibres. A morbid impression being made on one extremity of a nerve, the other in many instances becomes the chief seat of distress.

"Not" continues the same Author "as the under surface of the diaphragm participates from its contiguity, in an inflammation of the Liver, the top of the shoulder suffers, as forming the extreme point of the phrenic chain by which these organs are connected."

In some instances the pain is felt in both scapulæ. The hypochondrium is tender on pressure, and the patient is frequently unable to lie with ease except on the side affected.

Together with nausea and sickness, and often with a vomiting of bilious matter, the intestines are generally inactive, and the stools shew a defi=ciency of biliary secretion, or are at least in a very slight degree tinged with bile. The urine is discharged in small quantities, being at the same time of a deep saffron colour. We have also a loss of appetite,

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] in [illegible] the pain is [illegible] the [illegible] sleeping [illegible] being [illegible] affected the pain is usually [illegible].

[illegible] at some [illegible] determine by symptoms what part of the Liver is inflamed in different cases of the disease. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] which is [illegible] [illegible] respiration.

But when the inflammation occupies the inferior [illegible] surface, the stomach [illegible] the [illegible] as in the [illegible] case, becomes [illegible], [illegible] nausea and vomiting the Cough and [illegible] being either entirely wanting [illegible] [illegible] much less severe. And the pain in the region of the Liver is not so violent as in the other instance.

If the inflammation is seated in the left lobe of the liver, [illegible] left [illegible] shoulder [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] side.

[illegible] in the inflammation may [illegible] in resolution, suppuration, gangrene or scirrhus. The tendency of the disease to resolution is known by the gradual mitigation of the symptoms. [illegible] in the [illegible] [illegible] is generally about the third or fourth days; [illegible] case continuing [illegible] the [illegible] suppuration [illegible] be expected.

The progress of suppuration [illegible] influenced by [illegible] of inflammation [illegible] of the patient, the severity of the [illegible] when [illegible] is [illegible] [illegible] of the disease. Inflammation of the substance of the liver [illegible] [illegible] radically [illegible] [illegible] symptoms [illegible] in a very [illegible]

[illegible]

being seated in the more external parts of the liver adhesions [illegible] generally form with the stomach or intestines [illegible] by [illegible] out [illegible] and is discharged either by vomiting or by stool. When where such an event has occurred, there is reason to believe patients have recovered. In some cases the [illegible] liver [illegible] into the lungs, a communication [illegible] with the cavity of the thorax [illegible] purulent expectoration. This should [illegible] con[illegible] [illegible] at [illegible]. The patient under such circumstances seldom recovers, the [illegible] hectic [illegible] symptoms [illegible] disease.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] usually [illegible] danger [illegible] disease.

Hepatitis [illegible] [illegible] usually [illegible]ed

in gangrene. When there is a tendency to this termination, the symptoms are unusually violent and continue to increase without yielding in the slightest degree to our remedies. But when it has advanced to a stage the inflammatory symptoms suddenly subside, cold sweats supervene while the pulse becomes weak and fluttering, attended with hiccup and cold extremities.

Scirrhus has been enumerated among the terminations of this disease, but it is I believe regarded rather as a consequence of the disease than the acute paroxysm of Hepatitis.

Causes — This disease is more prevalent in warm than in cold climates and persons of a choleric and Melancholic temperament are said to be particularly predisposed to its attacks.

Among the causes may be enumerated external violences from contusions or falls, and especially those which have occasioned a fracture of the

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] that it is [illegible] to ascertain, and above all the tendency to inflammation to strike [illegible] parts; the symptoms of these diseases, and [illegible] [illegible] that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] inflammation [illegible] If upon taking any thing into the stomach the heart and [illegible] not increased, if the liquids or medicines accepted [illegible] be [illegible] without the same [illegible] reflection [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] exist in a much less degree, we shall by attending to these circumstances be enabled to distinguish Hepatitis from Gastritis. [illegible] the great [illegible] [illegible] the commencement of hepatitis we [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] the one, or the other [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] such cases [illegible]

-sance with expectoration observable in this dis-
-ease will easily distinguish it from Pneumonia.
The dyspnœa is distressing and constant in Pneu-
-monia, exists in a much less degree in Hepatitis.
Prognosis.— We may anticipate a favorable ter-
-mination of this disease, when there is a gradual
amendation of the pain and fever, when the
cough subsides, the pulse becomes strong. The
[illegible] degree of [illegible] are [illegible]
to a [illegible] nature, when [illegible]
[illegible] the color of the countenance [illegible]
natural. The [illegible] of [illegible] are less inflamma-
-tory symptoms.
Post-Mortem appearances.— Generally the lung is more
enlarged, more congested; its bronchial tubes som-
-times dilated, and [illegible] redder than natural
and its surface is lined a reddish [illegible].
The substance of the lungs is little [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] hepatized [illegible] of inflammation, and

[illegible] [illegible] between the [illegible] or [illegible], the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. There [illegible] be appearances resembling of the [illegible] other intestine and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. When [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] collected in smaller [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] the mucous [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] particularly about the pylorus.

Pathology. In common with most other [illegible] affections, the primary irritation in this disease is located [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible] mucous membrane of the stomach [illegible] [illegible] great similarity existing between these parts, [illegible] [illegible] ultimately [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. The history and causes of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the appearances [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible]

such a conclusion.

Treatment. The mode of treatment in this disease does not differ materially from that which is pursued in the milder cases of phlegmasia.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to the stage [illegible] than [illegible].

If a [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and follow the [illegible] the symptoms [illegible] under [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] alone. [illegible] [illegible] to the [illegible] be [illegible] [illegible] must [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] of the disease.

Bloodletting [illegible] [illegible] symptoms, purgatives [illegible] [illegible] remedies the best [illegible]

or Calomel, [illegible] by some mild laxative as Epsom Salts or Castor Oil. Active purging is here of the utmost importance, for although by VS and other means inflammation may be subdued, yet unless the healthy secretions of the liver be restored, the cure cannot be accomplished. It is recommended to exhibit the Calomel in minute doses until ten or fifteen grains have been taken and then to work it off by some mild laxative.

[illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], it [illegible] [illegible] the liver, and [illegible] its natural secretions.

[illegible] of blisters on the right hypochondriac region.

Dr. Ford does not [illegible] pro-
able [illegible] in the case,
but [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
and [illegible] are
particularly [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] have been
seen it in [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] has been
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

No plan of treatment will always succeed, and suppuration sometimes ensues notwithstanding all our efforts. During pouring there will be either a remission of the pain, or the patient complains of a dull obtuse sensation in the part, together with throbbing pains. Whenever the abcess points it should be matured by poultices and opened. The abcess having discharged itself there is usually much debility; here the system must be soothed by the occasional use of Opium, and by Tonics, among which the Nitric and Nitro-muriatic acids will often prove extremely serviceable.